

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

MONTHLY LETTER OF THE BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Number 58

February, 1919

CEREAL AND FORAGE INSECT INVESTIGATIONS

W. R. Walton, Entomologist in Charge

Lieut. W. H. Larrimer has resigned from military service and has been reinstated in the investigational work of this branch of the Bureau. He will assume charge of the laboratory at West Lafayette, Ind., beginning about March 15. Lieut. Larrimer was formerly in charge of the Hessian-fly experimental plats at Nashville, Ill., and previously was in charge of a field laboratory at Missoula, Mont.

D. J. Caffrey is engaged in securing permanent quarters in the vicinity of Boston and has been placed in charge of the investigational work in connection with the European corn-borer activities.

R. J. Fiske, recently employed by the Federal Horticultural Board, has been transferred to this branch of the Bureau and assigned to the Columbia, S. C., field laboratory, where he will be connected with the southern corn rootworm investigations.

A cooperative investigation of the wireworms injurious to cereal crops in central and eastern Washington has been arranged between this branch of the Bureau and the Washington State Agricultural College. An entomologist will be assigned from the staff of the Forest Grove, Ore., field station for cooperation in this work and will be stationed probably at Lind, Wash., during the growing season of the year.

L. J. Hogg, formerly employed in the alfalfa-seed chalcis investigations at Tempe, Ariz., resigned February 24.

MISCELLANEOUS INSECT INVESTIGATIONS

The following notes are from specialists in this Bureau working on collections in the Division of Insects, United States National Museum:

It should be of interest to all students of Hemiptera to know that Capt. E. H. Gibson is attempting to list type data of all North American species of Heteroptera and Homoptera, such data to include, principally, where the type or type material is now deposited; of what the type material consists; where, when, and by whom it was collected. Any assistance in this work will be greatly appreciated. Mr. Gibson would like to call attention again to his preliminary studies of the immature stages of Heteroptera and to request material during the coming seasons of eggs and nymphs.

Of the Lepidoptera submitted for determination, a constantly increasing proportion is in one of the immature stages, either larval or pupal. To aid in the identification of such material an alcoholic collection has been established as a permanent part of the Museum's collection of Lepidoptera. The attention of chiefs of branches and field men of the Bureau of Entomology and others engaged on life-history and economic studies of Lepidoptera is called to the needs of this collection. Of many of the most common species there is no, or insufficient,

authentic material for comparison or study. Those interested will find it to their own benefit to save larvae and pupae and send specimens to the Museum collection. These should be accompanied by the following data: Name, locality, date of collection, food plant, name of collector, and branch or experiment number if any. Specimens may be sent in 70 to 95 per cent alcohol.

The Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution has appointed Dr. J. M. Aldrich as honorary Custodian of Diptera in succession to the late Frederick Knab. Mr. Aldrich is the secretary of the Entomological Society of America.

Dr. C. H. T. Townsend has been exclusively occupied for over a year with the preparation of synopses of the muscoid genera of the world. The work is now nearing completion. The synopses have been arranged by tribes, of which about 100 have been recognized and defined. In the neighborhood of 1,500 genera are already included, and new genera are being added as the undetermined material in the Museum is studied.

Messrs. E. A. Schwarz and H. S. Barber have left for a few weeks collecting in Florida, with headquarters at Homestead.

TRUCK CROP INSECT INVESTIGATIONS

F. H. Chittenden, Entomologist in Charge

Lieut. W. H. White, scientific assistant, has recently returned from the American Expeditionary Force in France to resume his work in this branch of the Bureau, and will be, as formerly, in charge of greenhouse vegetable insect investigations, and in charge of the truck-crop station at Arlington, Va.

M. D. Leonard, formerly engaged in research and extension work at Cornell University, has accepted an appointment as special field agent in extension entomology for work in New York State.

C. F. Stahl, scientific assistant, has moved his headquarters from Spreckels to Riverside, Calif.

FEDERAL HORTICULTURAL BOARD

C. L. Marlatt, Chairman

The pink bollworm work in the Pecos Valley, Texas, is being pushed. The War Department is cooperating to the extent of loaning considerable equipment for the housing of labor, the available equipment which had been accumulated by the Board last year not being sufficient for the needs. This loan will enable the Board to add 300 laborers to the force. This labor contingent is principally Mexican and has been obtained at El Paso, Texas.

The infestation in the Pecos Valley is limited to points near the two adjacent towns of Barstow and Pecos. Altogether seven points of pink bollworm attack have been determined in this valley. The total number of larvae found up to February 5 was 14, all of which were dead except one. The clean-up work, however, will be extended over a considerable area beyond the infested points in order to remove any possible chance of perpetuation of the insect in the district.

The isolation of the Pecos Valley district and the fact that the cotton in it is grown entirely under irrigation, make it possible to pursue the clean-up operations with great efficiency. The further fact that the insect seems to have been largely killed by the freezes of early winter gives this district a rather different outlook from that of the infested regions in eastern Texas. In view of these conditions and of the fact that in this district cotton and alfalfa are the only available crops, and that it is too late this year to prepare for the alfalfa crop, plans are being made to allow the growth of cotton next season in this district under such supervision and control as will permit the prompt safeguarding of any new outbreak of the insect. The conditions as outlined, however, are such as to give hope that the insect in this region will be thoroughly exterminated this winter.

The port inspection that is being conducted by George Compere for the Board at New Orleans is yielding some very interesting results which would seem to justify making this service a permanent one. Mr. Compere has intercepted various cotton importations from Mexico, and fruit infested with fruit flies, etc. H. F. Dietz, who is now en route for the station in the Canal Zone, will spend a week or ten days in New Orleans working with Mr. Compere in this port inspection service and an invitation has been extended to the State Plant Board of Florida to have some of its experts associate themselves for a week or more with Mr. Compere to get the advantage of his experience in port inspection. If it can be arranged, furthermore, Mr. Compere's work will be extended to some of the Florida ports where his experience may be helpful to the local State inspectors enforcing both State and Federal quarantines.

Two hearings have been conducted during the month, one on the proposed quarantine of the common barberry and other rust-susceptible species of Berberis and Mahonia on account of the black stem rust of wheat, and the other on the proposed quarantine of the States of Massachusetts and New York on account of the European corn borer (Pyrausta nubilalis).

C. A. Weigel, who left the inspection service of the Board to enter the Medical service of the Army for the period of the war, has been released and has resumed his duties as inspector in Washington. In this work Mr. Weigel is charged in particular with the inspection and research work in relation to greenhouse insects.

Lieut. John A. Monteith, jr., a pathological inspector of the Board, has also been released from the Army and has resumed his service for the Board.

TROPICAL AND SUBTROPICAL FRUIT INSECT INVESTIGATIONS

C. L. Marlatt, Entomologist in Charge

C. E. Pemberton, who followed Dr. Back in charge of the fruit-fly station and quarantine service in Hawaii, and who has been for the past year in war service in Honolulu, has been released from the Army and has accepted a position with the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association at a material financial betterment. Mr. Pemberton has given the Bureau excellent service and carries to his new work the hearty good wishes of his old associates.

Harry D. Young, who has been associated with R. S. Woglum in Southern California and has had particular charge of the investigation and demonstration work in connection with the use of liquid hydrocyanic acid for orchard fumigation,

has been authorized to report to Washington for special work on this subject in cooperation with the gas experts of the Federal Horticultural Board and of the Bureau of Chemistry.

W. W. Yothers has actively participated during this month in a series of "better fruit" meetings conducted throughout the State of Florida. His particular subject has been "Methods of increasing the amount of bright fruit."

C. L. Marlatt spent a week at Cocoanut Grove, Fla., inspecting the work of the station established by the Bureau at Miami under Messrs. G. F. Moznette and A. C. Mason, and visiting the experimental work under way, chiefly in connection with the avocado orchards in various parts of Dade County. Very efficient means of control have been worked out for two or three of the serious insect enemies of this new fruit crop, particularly the red spider, scale insects, and thrips.

EXTENSION WORK IN ENTOMOLOGY

J. A. Hyslop, Entomologist in Charge

Mortimer D. Leonard has been appointed special field agent to carry on extension work in the control of truck-crop insects in New York State.

Max. W. Reeher, special field agent in Cereal and Forage Insect Investigations, who was drafted into the Army on August 27, 1918, has since been discharged. He was reappointed in this branch of the Bureau as a scientific assistant, effective January 2, 1919.

Douglas R. Royder has been appointed an entomological inspector in sweet-potato weevil work, effective January 2, 1919.

Charles F. Stiles, who has been employed in apicultural work in Oklahoma, resigned on February 18.

Warren D. Whitcomb, a scientific assistant in Oriental peach-moth work, who resigned to enter the Army, has since been discharged and has been reappointed in this branch of the Bureau as a scientific assistant.

LIBRARY

Mabel Colcord, Librarian

New Books

Baker, O. E. Atlas of American agriculture. Pt. 5. The Crops. Sec. A. Cotton. 28 p., illus. Washington, 1918.

Camacho, Carlos. Fungicidas e insecticidas mas usados para combatir las enfermedades de las plantas. Ed. 5. 18 p. (Servicos de policia sanitaria vegetal) Santiago de Chile, 1918.

Camacho, Carlos. El gusano de la manzana (Carpocapsa pomonella, Linn.) (Cydia pomonella, Linn.) 18 p., illus. (Servicos de policia sanitaria vegetal, Estacion de patologia vegetal) Santiago de Chile, 1918.

Chile, Estacion de patologia vegetal, Carlos Camacho, Director. El gusano del poroto (Pegomyia chilensis). 7 p., illus. Santiago de Chile, 1918.

Chile, Servicos de policia sanitaria vegetal, Carlos Camacho, Director. La cochinilla nigra del olivo Saissetia oleae Bern. Lecanium oleae. 2 p., illus. Barcelona, 1917.

- Coleman, L. C., and Kannan, K. K. Some scale insect pests of coffee in South India. 66 p., illus., 4 pl. (Mysore State Dept. Agr. Ent. ser. Bul. 4.) Bangalore, 1918.
- Felt, E. P. Thirty-third report of the State entomologist on the injurious and other insects of the State of New York, 1917. 239 p., illus., 12 pl. (N. Y. State Museum Bul. 202.) Albany, 1918.
- Fletcher, T. B. Report of the imperial entomologist 1917-18. 116 p., 20 pl. Calcutta, 1918.
- London, Royal Society. Grain pests (War) committee. Reports 2-3. London, 1918.
- Mukerji, U. G. Handbook of Indian agriculture. 620 p., illus. Insect and fungus pests, p. 529-573. Calcutta, 1915.
- Porter, C. E. Breves instrucciones para la recolección, conservación y envío de ejemplares de historia natural para los museos. Ed. 3, rev. 98 p. Santiago de Chile, 1918.
- Rus. Rural Uplift Service. A preliminary attempt to register the rural leadership in the United States and Canada. Compiled by L. H. Bailey. 313 p. Ithaca, N. Y. Nov., 1918.
- Wheeler, W. M. A study of some ant larvae, with a consideration of the origin and meaning of the social habits among insects. American Philosophical Society Proceedings, v. 57, no. 4, p. 293-343, illus. 1918.
Bibliography, p. 339-343.

SOUTHERN FIELD CROP INSECT INVESTIGATIONS

W. Dwight Pierce, Entomologist Acting in Charge

E. E. Wehr, extension expert on poultry insects, is now working in Maryland, and has been in Washington several times during the past month.

R. W. Wells, extension worker in poultry insects, is at present working in Delaware.

The appointment of J. H. Touhy, expert in the body-louse investigations, expired on February 19.

Joseph N. Tenhet, scientific assistant, has been appointed to assist Mr. Morgan on tobacco-insect investigations, appointment to be effective March 1.

S. F. Grubbs has received an appointment as a field assistant, effective April 1, to assist Mr. Morgan in tobacco-insect investigations.

M. S. Linebaugh, clerk at the Clarksville, Tenn., laboratory, resigned February 11.

L. P. O'Dowd, an assistant in the sugar-cane insect investigations, resigned from the Bureau February 11.

Geo. N. Wolcott, formerly employed in this branch, has been mustered out of the Army, and is now doing postgraduate work at Cornell University.

W. H. Dumont, who has been cooperating with the Public Health Service at Augusta, Ga., has been transferred to Wilmington, N. C., to assist Max. Kisliuk who is cooperating with Dr. C. W. Stiles of the Public Health Service in the treatment of human excreta to prevent the breeding of flies.

FOREST ENTOMOLOGY

A. D. Hopkins, Forest Entomologist

A. B. Champlain, assistant in forest entomology, who has been in charge of a field station at Lyme, Conn., has resigned to accept a position with the Bureau of Economic Zoology, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

Carl Heinrich, specialist in forest Lepidoptera, has returned to his work in this branch after an absence of several months with the Federal Horticultural Board studying the pink bollworm in Texas.

L. C. Griffith, assistant in shade-tree insects, has also returned from the Federal Horticultural Board to this branch, for work from Brownsville, Tex., northward to Maine.

T. E. Snyder, specialist in forest Entomology, left Washington on February 15 for a trip to Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia. He will continue his investigations begun in 1916 in southern Florida of the cause of the dying of the Casuarina trees. Studies will also be made of the biology and distribution of termites, and phenological records will be taken on plants and insects.

F. C. Craighead, specialist in forest entomology, left Washington on February 17 for a trip to Florida, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia. He will investigate the loss from pine borers suffered by lumber companies in Florida and other States and will study and record the phenological events of plants and insects.

Dr. Hopkins will leave about the 1st of March for a trip to Brownsville, Texas., and go from there northward, to study the advance of spring as manifested by phenological events in plants and insects, farm and garden practice, etc.; also to study the conditions in the pine forests as related to the southern pine beetle (Dendroctonus frontalis Zimm.); and insects affecting shade trees, etc.

Messrs. Snyder, Craighead, and Griffith will also study the advance of spring along their different routes northward. Mr. Griffith's trip will extend to northern Maine and to the timber line on Mount Washington.

In these trips northward the field stations of the Bureau and the State Agricultural Experiment Stations along the route will be visited and the localities utilized for phenological and entomological observations on the advance of spring.

BEE CULTURE

E. F. Phillips, Apiculturist in Charge

The week of February 24 a second extension school for commercial beekeepers was held at Ithaca, N. Y., in cooperation with the Extension Division of Cornell University. Dr. E. F. Phillips and Geo. S. Demuth of the Bureau have gone from Washington for the school and Geo. H. Rea of the Bureau, now stationed in New York, is also participating. This type of extension work seems to be extremely effective and the demands on the time of a picked faculty promise to be excessive.

R. B. Willson, formerly an employee and recently lieutenant in the Army, has returned to civil duties, and is now in Mississippi working in the interest of bee clubs and beekeepers for the Mississippi Agricultural and Mechanical College.

J. V. Ormond, special field agent, has left Arkansas and is now working in Missouri where he will remain until April 1.

Dr. E. F. Phillips recently attended the annual meeting of the National Beekeepers' Association in Chicago where he delivered an address on "Nectar secretion." The previous week he attended the meeting of the Massachusetts Federated Beekeepers' Association at Boston, Mass., where he spoke on "Wintering bees."

C. F. Stiles, recently special field agent in Oklahoma, has resigned to engage in the bee supply business.

R. F. Wixson, special field agent for Virginia, is just recovering from a severe attack of influenza. He will not be able to continue his work and has sent in his resignation.

DECIDUOUS-FRUIT INSECT INVESTIGATIONS

A. L. Quaintance, Entomologist in Charge

A. J. Ackerman, engaged in apple insect investigations in the Ozarks, was in Washington for a few days for the purpose of conference regarding his work, and has now returned to his permanent headquarters at Bentonville, Ark.

R. W. Kelley, who has been engaged in extension work in deciduous-fruit insect control in Indiana, has accepted appointment under the Insecticide and Fungicide Board, and will be attached to the laboratory at Vienna, Va., under the immediate charge of E. W. Scott. Mr. Kelley will give special attention to testing proprietary insecticides as to efficiency claims on a practical scale in orchards.

Geo. G. Becker, formerly connected with the Arkansas Agricultural College, has been appointed as agent, and will be engaged in extension work in deciduous-fruit insect control in Arkansas, with headquarters at Fayetteville.

The following men have been in Washington temporarily, preparing manuscripts on the subjects of their field investigations: E. H. Siegler, H. K. Plank, B. R. Leach, Wm. O. Ellis, and B. A. Porter.

STORED PRODUCT INSECT INVESTIGATIONS

E. A. Back, Entomologist in Charge

At the request of the Quartermasters Department of the Army, the cooperation between the Bureau and the Army begun during the war for the protection of food supplies at the Army supply base at Brooklyn, N. Y., will be continued, at least throughout the coming summer and fall.

Harry H. Stage, who has been engaged to take up the work of the late A. B. Duckett, is a 1916 graduate of the New York State College of Forestry, where he specialized in entomology, botany, and pathology. Throughout the latter part of his college course Mr. Stage assisted Dr. M. W. Blackman as instructor during the college year, and during the summer of 1915 was in field charge, under Dr. E. P. Felt, of the Sodus Bay, N. Y., mosquito-control work. He is joint author with Doctors Felt and Blackman of several entomological papers. Mr. Stage enlisted at the beginning of the war in the U. S. Public Health Service, and recently has been honorably discharged. He comes to the Bureau well recommended by Dr. Blackman, Dr. Felt, Prof. Chas. C. Adams, and Surg. W. H. Carter.

